

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 DODE-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-06 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10

NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /109 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, UK

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

REF: STATE 151341

1. ON JULY 1 WE CONVEYED THE POINTS IN THE REFTEL
TO OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE (JOHN CLEMENT
AND SUSAN DAND) AND HMTREASURY (ANTHONY WITCHELL).

2. WITCHELL, WHO IS THE UK'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE
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TCWP WELCOMED THIS US INITIATIVE. THE OECD'S WORK ON

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT HAS LACKED THE "EXTERNAL DISCIPLINE" OF TARGET DEADLINES, HE SAID, AND THE FACT THAT THE US HAS NOW SUGGESTED ONE COULD GIVE THE WORK ADDITIONAL MOMENTUM.

3. THE UK WANTS THE OECD TO AGREE ON A GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE BEFORE THE SUBJECT IS INTRODUCED IN THE MTN. WITCHELL SAID THAT THE EC COULD REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON ITS DRAFT DIRECTIVE BY THE SUMMER OF 1976, AND AGREEMENT COULD THEN BE REACHED IN THE OECD SOON THEREAFTER. THE TCWP WOULD MAKE FASTER PROGRESS IF IT MET MORE FREQUENTLY, WITCHELL SAID. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT IF IT WANTS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITHIN THE TIME FRAME ENVISAGED BY THE US, THE OECD MIGHT HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A "MORE MODEST AND LIMITED" INSTRUMENT THAN THE ONE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ITEMS (SURVEILLANCE, THE DATA REQUIRED FOR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT) COULD BE SET ASIDE AND DEALT WITH LATER, WITCHELL SUGGESTED.

4. WE NOTED THAT THE US IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES' GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT PRACTICES, INCLUDING THE UK'S. WE EXPECTED THAT THE US WOULD WANT ANY OECD CODE TO INCLUDE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR SURVEILLANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF DATA.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

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